

CHILD WELFARE AGENCY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FORM

Date: 5/26/15

Agency Name: Washoe County Department of Social Services

Agency Address: P.O. Box 11130, Reno, NV 89520

Date of written notification to the Division of Child and Family Services and Legislative

Auditor: 4/27/15

Internal reference UNITY ID or Report Number: Case #1387188; Report #1656151

Type of Report: ☐ 48 Hour Notice ☐ 15 Day Update ☒ 30 Day Update ☐ Final

☒ **Child Fatality** **Date of Death:** 4/26/15

☐ **Near Fatality** **Date of Near Fatality:**

☐ **Portions of information on this form have been withheld at the request of**
law enforcement.

(Name of agency)

Information for Release:

A. Date of the notification to the child welfare agency of the death of a child:

4/26/15

B. Location of child at the time of death or near fatality (city/county):

Sun Valley, NV; Washoe County

C. A summary of the report of abuse or neglect and a factual description of the contents of the report:

On 4/26/15 emergency personnel responded to the residence to find that the child was deceased after the parent had tried to awaken the child and found him unresponsive. He was pronounced deceased at the residence at 7:27 a.m.

D. The date of birth and gender of child:

7/11/2013; male

E. The date that the child suffered the fatality or near fatality:

4/26/15

F. The cause of the fatality or near fatality, if such information has been determined:

Unknown pending autopsy

- G. Whether the agency had any contact with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and, if so:** (1) The frequency of any contact or communication with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and the date on which the last contact or communication occurred before the fatality or near fatality;
- (2) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services provided any child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (3) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services made any referrals for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (4) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services took any other actions concerning the welfare of the child before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality; and
- (5) A summary of the status of the child's case at the time of the fatality or near fatality, including, without limitation, whether the child's case was closed by the agency which provides child welfare services before the fatality or near fatality and, if so, the reasons that the case was closed.

April 23, 2013 – Report states there was a domestic violence incident where father slapped mother in the face when oldest child present. This report was coded as an Information Referral and was not opened for assessment.

June 6, 2013 – Unsubstantiated case on mother for physical risk, neglect as report states mother was in a physical altercation with a relative while oldest child present. Referral information was mailed to the mother for counseling resources.

April 17, 2014 – Report states the mother was rough with the children when putting them in a chair at a community agency office. This report case was coded as in Information Referral and was not opened for assessment.

April 12, 2014 – Report states father left the youngest child in a high chair and left the home without notifying any relatives in the home that he was leaving. He was arrested for child neglect. This report was coded as Information Only and was not opened for assessment.

- H. Whether the agency which provides child welfare services, in response to the fatality or near fatality:** (1) Has provided or intends to provide child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household; and (2) Has made or intends to make a referral for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household; and (3) Has taken or intends to take any other action concerning the welfare and safety of the child or any member of the child's family or household.

WCDSS has assessed the family while local law enforcement complete their investigation. The other children in the household continue to be deemed safe. Grief and loss referrals were provided to the family.

NON-DISCLOSURE NOTICE

The following information must not be released (see Policy on Public Disclosure of Child Fatality and Near Fatality Information, page 4): 1) Information regarding the sibling(s) of a deceased child; 2) the name of the reporting party or individual making an allegation or referral will not be released; 3) if the disclosure of the information would adversely affect any pending investigation concerning a report (NRS 432B.290(3)); 4) if the disclosure violates other federal or state law, including, but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Family Educational and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), alcohol and drug abuse patient records (42 USC §290dd-2 and 42 CFR §212 (c)(6)), and any other applicable law.

ATTACHMENT

Administration on Families and Children, Child Welfare Policy Manual, CAPTA, Section 2 excerpt, March 16, 2006:

2.1A.4 CAPTA, Assurances and Requirements, Access to Child Abuse and Neglect Information, Public disclosure

1. Question: The CAPTA amendments at section 106 (b)(2)(vi) require States to provide for the public disclosure of findings or information about a case of child abuse or neglect which results in a child fatality or near fatality. For the purposes of this requirement, what is considered a "near fatality"?

Answer: A "near fatality" is defined under section 106 (b)(4)(A) as "...an act that, as certified by a physician, places the child in serious or critical condition." For example, if hospital records reflect that the child's condition is "serious" or "critical", this would be considered a "near fatality" under CAPTA.

- **Source/Date:** ACYF-NCCAN-PIQ-97-01 (3/4/97) (updated 2/3/05)
- **Legal and Related References:** Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) - section 106

2. Question: The requirement for public disclosure states that "findings or information" about a case must be disclosed. Does this mean that States have the option to disclose either the findings of the case, or information which may be general in nature and address such things as practice issues rather than provide case-specific information?

Answer: No. The intent of this provision was to assure that the public is informed about cases of child abuse or neglect which result in the death or near death of a child. As with the use of the other "or's" in this provision ("child abuse or neglect" and "child fatality or near fatality"), we understand the language to be inclusive and not limiting.

Specifically, the reference to "findings or information" requires the disclosure of information about such a case even if there are no findings. Thus, when child abuse or neglect results in the death or near death of a child, the State must provide for the disclosure of the available facts. However, nothing in this provision should be interpreted to require disclosure of information which would jeopardize a criminal investigation or proceeding.

- **Source/Date:** ACYF-NCCAN-PIQ-97-01 (3/4/97) (updated 2/3/05)
- **Legal and Related References:** Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) - section 106